



Chest X-ray Checklist

With *all* radiologic imaging, first check the specifics of the film! Confirm correct patient details. check the date of the film, determine whether film was AP/PA/supine/portable, look for previous imaging.

RIP-ABCDEF

R - Rotation

- Ensure spinous processes are midline, medial clavicles are equidistant from vertebrae.

I - Inspiration

- Ensure patient has inspired adequately (unless this is an expiratory film!). You should see ~9 ribs on each side. Poor inspiratory effort? Hyperinflation?

P - Penetration

- Intervertebral discs should be lucent. Opaque? Underpenetration. Too well-defined? Overpenetration.

A - Airways

- Ensure trachea is midline and you see two bronchi splitting at carina.

B - Bones

- Check bones for fractures/lytic lesions or other abnormalities. Systematically examine clavicles, shoulder, sternum, and ribs.

C - Cardiac

- Check for defined right and left heart borders (RA and LV, respectively). On PA film, heart size should be $< \frac{1}{2}$ of the chest diameter. Note: AP film will show larger than expected cardiac silhouette!

D - Diaphragm

- Make sure both hemidiaphragms are approximately equal in size and contour. Are costophrenic angles well-defined? Is there free air under the diaphragm?

E - Everything else (except for the lung fields)

- Check for lines/tubes/drains/pacemakers.

F - Fields

- Examine both lung fields for symmetry. Vascular markings should be present bilaterally. Are there any abnormal opacities? Consolidation/bullae/atelectasis/ pneumothorax?